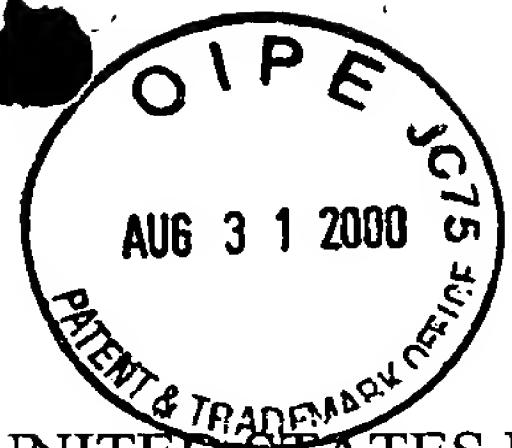


7063-0001-0



22/B  
SB  
9/18/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

RENATA. M. A. C. VESELY ET AL

: EXAMINER: MINNIFIELD

SERIAL NO.: 08/813,776

:

FILED: MARCH 7, 1997

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1645

FOR: STRAINS OF BACTERIA AND  
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION  
CONTAINING ONE OR MORE OF  
SUCH STRAINS AND USE OF SAME FOR  
PREVENTING AND TREATING DISEASES  
ASSOCIATED WITH OR CAUSED BY  
ALTERED METABOLISM OF BILE ACIDS

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated March 7, 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--37. (Amended) A biologically pure gram-positive bacteria strain characterized by

exhibiting:

(a) a 7 $\alpha$ -dehydroxylase activity of less than 50%, and

(b) a bile acid deconjugation activity of less than 50%, and

34

B